

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

{4} 1. (Currently amended) A process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition comprising (A) a poly(phenylene ether) and (B) a styrene resin, the styrene resin (B) being a styrene resin which comprises at least a rubber-modified polystyrene containing a polybutadiene having 90% or higher cis-1,4 bonds,

the process comprising:

a first step of melt-kneading the poly(phenylene ether) (A) and a first styrene resin to thereby obtain a melt-kneading product, wherein the first styrene resin is a styrene resin at least 80% by weight of which is (B1) a rubber-modified polystyrene containing a hydrogenated polybutadiene and/or a styrene homopolymer; and

a second step of melt-kneading the melt-kneading product with a second styrene resin, wherein the second styrene resin comprises (B2) a rubber-modified polystyrene containing a polybutadiene having 90% or higher cis-1,4 bonds.

{2} 2. (Currently amended) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 1, wherein the polystyrene (B1) comprises a rubber-modified polystyrene containing a partially hydrogenated polybutadiene in which 5-70% of all double bonds have been hydrogenated.

{3} 3. (Currently amended) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 2, wherein the second styrene resin further contains a styrene homopolymer.

{4} 4. (Currently amended) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[to 3]]~~, wherein (C) a phosphorus flame retardant is further added in the first step in an amount of 1-80 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the sum of the poly(phenylene ether) (A) and the first styrene resin.

{5} 5. (Currently amended) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[to]]~~ or 4, wherein (C) a phosphorus flame retardant and/or other additive(s) are further added in the second step.

{6} 6. (Currently amended) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 4 ~~[[or 5]]~~, wherein a phosphazene compound is used as the phosphorus flame retardant (C).

{7} 7. (Currently amended) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[to 6]]~~ or 4, wherein a polyolefin polymer is further added in the second step in an amount of 0.1-5 parts by weight.

{8} 8. (Currently amended) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[to 7]]~~ or 4, wherein a hydrogenated block copolymer derived from a block copolymer having at least one polymer block mainly comprising a vinylaromatic hydrocarbon and at least one polymer block mainly comprising a conjugated diene compound is further added in the second step in an amount of 0.1-15 parts by weight.

{9} 9. (Currently amended) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[to 7]]~~ or 4, wherein a hydrogenated block copolymer is further added in the second step in an amount of 0.1-15 parts by weight, the hydrogenated block copolymer being one which has been derived from a block copolymer having at least one polymer block mainly comprising a vinylaromatic hydrocarbon and at least one polymer block mainly comprising a conjugated diene compound and in which

(a) the amount of vinyl bonds derived from the conjugated diene compounds in the unhydrogenated block copolymer is 10-70%,

(b) the overall degree of hydrogenation of the unsaturated double bonds derived from the conjugated diene compounds is 60-85%, and

(c) the content of monomer units derived from the vinylaromatic hydrocarbons in the unhydrogenated block copolymer is 20-60% by weight.

{10} 10. (Currently amended) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[to 9]]~~ or 4, wherein intermediate material pellets are produced after the melt kneading in the first step, and the intermediate material pellets are subjected to the melt kneading in the second step.

{11} 11. (Currently amended) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[to 10]]~~ or 4, wherein a phosphorus compound antioxidant is added in the second step.

{12} 12. (Currently amended) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 11, wherein the phosphorus

compound antioxidant to be added in the second step is a pentaerythritol diphosphite derivative.

~~[13]~~ 13. (Currently amended) The process for producing a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 11, wherein the phosphorus compound antioxidant to be added in the second step is bis(2,6-di-t-butyl-4-methylphenyl) pentaerythritol diphosphite.

~~[14]~~ 14. (Currently amended) A poly(phenylene ether) resin composition obtained by the process of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[to 13]]~~ or 4.

~~[15]~~ 15. (Currently amended) The poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 14, which has a glass transition temperature of - 85°C or lower, the glass transition temperature being attributable to the polybutadiene having 90% or higher cis-1,4 bonds.

~~[16]~~ 16. (Currently amended) An exterior part for a large television receiver ~~[[and]]~~ or large copier, the exterior part comprising the poly(phenylene ether) resin composition of claim 14 ~~or 15.~~

17. (New) An exterior part for a large television or large copier comprising a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition obtained by the process of claim 11.